

***Amendments to the Claims:***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

***Listing of Claims:***

1. (Currently amended) A reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof, containing an immortalizing gene interposed between a pair of site-specific recombination sequences and a suicide gene in the outside of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences, wherein the suicide gene can exhibit its function after excision of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences, wherein the liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof does not contain a promoter derived from virus.
2. (Currently amended) The reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof of Claim 1, wherein ~~said mammalian is human the liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof comprises human liver cells.~~
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or the passage cell line thereof of Claim 1, wherein said reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line is CYNK-1 (~~deposited with International Patent Organism Depository, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, address: AIST Tsukuba Central 6, 1-1, Higashi 1-Chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305-8566 Japan, deposited date: March 10, 2004, accession number: FERM BP 08657~~).

5. (Original) A mammalian liver cell obtainable by excising the immortalizing gene from a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) A bioartificial liver, comprising a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

7. (Previously presented) A cell preparation, comprising as an active ingredient, a reversibly immortalized mammalian liver cell line or a passage cell line thereof of Claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) A non-viral vector, comprising a non-viral promoter and encoding an immortalizing gene between a pair of site-specific recombination sequences and a suicide gene in the outside of the pair of site-specific recombination sequences.

9. (Withdrawn) A bioartificial liver, comprising a mammalian liver cell of Claim 5.
10. (Previously presented) A cell preparation, comprising as an active ingredient, a mammalian liver cell of Claim 5.